

Message Text

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PAGE 01 GEORGE 00496 101506Z

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ACTION COME-00

INFO OCT-01 ARA-06 ISO-00 EB-07 /014 W
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R 091759Z APR 75

FM AMEMBASSY GEORGETOWN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1058

INFO AMEMBASSY BRIDGETOWN

AMEMBASSY KINGSTON

AMEMBASSY PORT OF SPAIN

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE GEORGETOWN 0496

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: BEXP, GY

SUBJECT: ALLEGED SUGAR REFINING PROJECT

REF: STATE 78625 (NOTAL)

1. EMBASSY RECEIVED WORD LAST YEAR THAT EXPATRIATE GROUP HAD PROPOSED LARGE-SCALE SUGAR CULTIVATION/REFINERY PROJECT IN MATTHEWS RIDGE. SCALE OF REFINING OPERATION WAS TO BE ABOUT 600,000 TONS PER YEAR, NOT RPT NOT PER DAY AS NOTED REFTEL. PLAN WAS DISCOUNTED AS TOTALLY UNREALISTIC BY LOCAL INDUSTRY OFFICIALS, AND GOG GAVE NO RPT NO CONCESSION TO MESSRS LOWENTHAL AND DUNNETT, OR ANYONE ELSE.

2. EMBASSY HAS NO RPT NO INFORMATION ON LOWENTHAL OR DUNNETT BACKGROUND. BELIEVE DUNNETT, HOWEVER, MAY BE BRITISH NATIONAL.

3. SUCH PROJECT IN MATTHEWS RIDGE AREA WOULD BE CONTRARY TO ALL PLANS GOG NOW HAS FOR DEVELOPMENT OF NORTH WEST REGION. GOG OFFICIALS, RESPONDING TO EMBASSY INQUIRY SAY THERE HAS BEEN NO RPT NO SERIOUS INTEREST IN THE SCHEME.

4. COMMENT: LOWENTHAL AND DUNNETT MAY BE ONE OF SEVERAL GROUPS WHICH FILTER DOWN TO GUYANA FROM TIME TO TIME OFFERING GRANDIOSE DEVELOPMENT SCHEMES. SOME ARE NO DOUBT SINCERE ENTREPRENEURS, BUT OTHERS ARE SIMPLY CONFIDENCE MEN. GOG HAS ENCOUNTERED ENOUGH
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OF LATTER CATEGORY TO JUSTLY SUSPICIOUS OF LOWENTHAL/DUNNETT

MOTIVES. MOREOVER, FROM ECONOMIC STANDPOINT, 600,000 TON REFINERY, WHICH WOULD BE EQUAL TO ALMOST TWICE GUYANA'S CURRENT ANNUAL PRODUCTION OF RAW SUGAR, WOULD REQUIRE ENORMOUS AGRICULTURAL INPUTS TO PRODUCE ADDITIONAL CANE IN NORTHWEST.

4. WOULD APPRECIATE RECEIVING ANY FURTHER INFORMATION DEPT DEVELOPS ON LOWENTHAL AND DUNNETT.
KREBS

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